GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3214
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
USE OF HARMFUL CHEMICAL
CHANDRA NATH SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that farmers are using harmful chemicals to change the colour and size of vegetables and fruits;

(b) if so, the number of such cases came to light during the last three years;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the measures taken to check the use of harmful chemicals in agricultural field?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) Use of chemical pesticides for change in colour of vegetables and fruits is not recommended by the Government. However, some of the plant growth regulators meant to increase the size of grape berries and pineapple fruits are approved for use under the Insecticides Act,1968 after considering all possible parameters of safety.

(b) to (d) The Government is taking several steps to ensure that farmers follow therecommended practices for use of approved chemical pesticides:-

(i) Popularising Integrated Pest Management and use of non-chemical pesticides bypromoting bio-pesticides and bio-control agents;

(ii) Banning and restricting use of chemical pesticides, from time to time, which are hazardous to human health and the environment;

(iii) Organising Farmers' Field Schools to demonstrate effectiveness and safety inuse of recommended control measures including judicious use chemical pesticides;

(iv) Organising Krishi Melas before Kharif and Rabi seasons to create awarenessamong the farming community for promoting use of recommended chemical fertilizers, chemical pesticides, chemical plant growth regulators, etc. and also to avoid misuse of such chemicals, thus avoiding their harmful effects, if any;

(v) Creating mass awareness among farming community through electronic media, posters, leaflets, pamphlets etc. about promoting the IPM practices and do's and don'ts in use of chemicals.